

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5532

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF LABOR REPRESENTATIVES TO NATIONAL LABOR
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

REF: BANGKOK 18835

1. LEADERS FROM 116 OF THAILAND'S 166 LABOR UNIONS MET
ON AUGUST 25, 1977 AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
ELECTED FIVE LABOR REPRESENTATIVES AND FIVE ALTERNATES
TO THE NATIONAL LABOR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. THE REPRESENTA-
TIVES ARE PHAISAN THAWATCHAINAN, METROPOLITAN ELECT
AUTHORITY LABOR UNION (89 VOTES); AMNAT NUJPRAPAJ,
METROPOLITAN WATERWORKD AUTHORITY LABOR UNION (73 VOTES);
SUTHON KACONET, EXPRESS TRANSPORT ORGANIZATION (72 VOTES);
SOMCHAN INTARO, THAI KURABO LOBOR UNION (71 VOTES); AND
PRICHA SIMISAP, IRON AND METAL WORKERS UNION (70 VOTES).
THIS IS THE SAME SLATE NOMINATED AT THE AUGUST 23 MEETING
OF 42 LABOR LEADERS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS
AND INCLUDES PHAISAN, AMNAT AND SUNTHON, THE THREE STATE
ENTERPRISE LEADERS NOMINATED AT THE EARLIER AUGUST 18
MEETING (SEE REFTEL).

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2. DAMRONG SUNTHON SARATHUN, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY.
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, AND FIVE RANKING LABOR DEPARTMENT
OFFICIALS, WHO CONDUCTED THE ELECTION, APPARENTLY IGNORED
LABOR DIRECTOR GENERAL SUWIT YINGWORAPHAN'S AUGUST 11
STATEMENT THAT STATE ENTERPRISE UNIONS ARE ILLEGAL AND
PERMITTED LEADERS FROM SUCH UNIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
ELECTION WITHOUT CHALLENGE. THANONG LAOVANICH, BOONRAWD

BREWERY AND 11 OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR LABOR LEADERS DID, HOWEVER BOYCOTT MEETING IN PROTEST TO PARTICIPATION BY STATE ENTERPRISE LEADERS.

3. COMMENT: RTG DECISION TO ALLOW STATE ENTERPRISE LABOR LEADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION IS, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, MORE PRAGMATIC THAN LOGICAL. RTG NO DOUBT AFRAID THAT, GIVEN THE SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATED BY MAJORITY OF THAI LABOR LEADERS, EXCLUSION OF STATE ENTERPRISE LABOR LEADERS WOULD TURN ELECTION INTO FARCE AND COULD LEAD TO DANGEROUS CONFRONTATION.

4. TO COMPLICATE MATTERS THE EMPLOYERS' CONFEDERATION OF THAILAND IS NOW THREATENING BOYCOTT NLDC IF STATE ENTERPRISE LABOR LEADERS PARTICIPATE. THUS THE FUTURE OF NLDC IS UNCERTAIN AND THE STATUS OF STATE ENTERPRISE LABOR UNIONS STILL FAR FROM CLEAR.
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

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